

**Attachment 9**

**Letters of Support for**

***Habitat Enhancement and Creation: Geotube Technology and Solar  
PV Power on Salton Sea Playa, Torres Martinez Wetlands***

DRAFT



**PACIFIC  
INSTITUTE**

*Research for People and the Planet*

September 5, 2012

Mr. Andrew Schlange  
Interim Executive Director  
Salton Sea Authority

via email: [jdawson@saltonsea.ca.gov](mailto:jdawson@saltonsea.ca.gov)

**RE: Support for Torres Martinez Habitat Development Proposal**

Dear Mr. Schlange:

On behalf of the Pacific Institute, I am writing to express our strong support for the Salton Sea Authority-sponsored proposal to the state's Salton Sea Financial Assistance Program, to develop and expand habitat at the Torres Martinez wetlands.

The Pacific Institute has a long-standing interest in Salton Sea restoration and conservation efforts. Since its creation, the Salton Sea has been an extremely important wetland and open water resource for millions of migratory birds dependent upon the Pacific Flyway, and for scores of species of resident birds. The Torres Martinez wetlands are one of a handful of wetlands that have been constructed at the Sea in the past decade, providing habitat for a broad variety of bird species. They are a remarkable achievement, providing a model for future habitat construction in the area. Their proposed expansion would help meet a clear need for additional wetland habitats at the north end of the Salton Sea, and would also provide valuable on-the-ground information and experience in innovative construction materials and methods.

We strongly support the disbursement of state-held funds to construct new habitat and expand and improve existing habitat. The proposed project meets these objectives.

We thank the Salton Sea Authority for sponsoring this important and worthwhile wetlands expansion project, and are pleased to lend our strong support to this proposal.

Sincerely,

Michael Cohen  
Senior Associate  
Pacific Institute  
[mcohen@pacinst.org](mailto:mcohen@pacinst.org)



September 6, 2012

Honorable Marion Ashley, President  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SALTON SEA AUTHORITY  
44-199 Monroe Street, Suite C  
Indio, California 92201

Re: Letter of Commitment in Support of the Habitat Creation and Enhancement Proposal  
submitted by Desert Cahuilla Wetlands

Consideration of Torres Martinez Request to Salton Sea Authority to Submit a Grant  
Proposal under the Salton Sea Financial Assistance Plan on their Behalf  
RESOLUTION NO. 12-01

Dear Mr. Ashley,

Citizens United for Resources and the Environment ("CURE") is in full support of the referenced project. CURE is a non-profit organization which focuses on promoting environmental awareness and fostering environmental justice.

In 2002, the Tribal Council of the Torrez Martinez Desert Cahuilla Tribe decided to take a proactive approach to the transfer of water away from the Salton Sea caused by the Quantification Settlement Agreement between the State of California and four water agencies (the "QSA"). In a decade, the Desert Cahuilla Wetlands has evolved into a unique pilot project that is leading the way forward, by demonstrating potentially scalable solutions to the larger, long-range problem of mitigating the impacts of the Sea's decline.

CURE is currently partnering with the Wetlands on the Desert Environmental Empowerment Campaign ("DEEC"), a proposal submitted to the California Air Quality Management District under the AB 1318 Mitigation Fees Fund. The scope of work includes improvements which will enhance and expand the Wetlands. This will directly improve air quality in designated environmental justice ("EJ") areas. Reductions of PM2.5 and PM-10 will be achieved through tangible physical steps, the results of which will be measured against baseline data.

Honorable Marion Ashley, President  
September 6, 2012  
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The scope of work proposed in the subject Habitat Creation and Enhancement Proposal is consistent with, and dovetails nicely into the work plan detailed in the DEEC. CURE is prepared to assist The Desert Cahuilla Wetlands and its management as-needed in support of this most worthy request.

Sincerely,

MALISSA HATHAWAY McKEITH  
President